

TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
85th Legislative Session – March 28, 2017

CALL TO ACTION: HB 3859 and HB 1818

WHAT: HB 1818, the “Sunset” bill to reauthorize the Texas Railroad Commission, will be considered by the full House TODAY. Amendments will be offered by Representative Schaefer to attach the “bathroom” bill language and by Representative Tinderholt to require that the designation of “woman owned” business be limited to those who are designated as female on their birth certificates.

ACTION: Contact your state representative and ask them to oppose the amendments offered by Representative Schaefer and Representative Tinderholt. Tell them that the Railroad Commission reauthorization bill is NOT the vehicle for these amendments. Go to www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us to find out who represents you.

WHAT: HB 3859 (Frank, J) a “religious refusal” bill will be heard in the House State Affairs Committee on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at 10:30 or upon adjournment of the House in Room 140 of the John H. Reagan Building (just north of the Capitol).

ACTIONS: Contact members of the [House State Affairs Committee](#) – especially if you are a constituent – to oppose HB 3859. Attend the hearing and register against HB 3859.

BACKGROUND: TCA opposes HB 3859 because it would permit the religious views of individuals and organizations seeking to work within the child welfare system of Texas to supersede professional codes of ethics and be imposed on children placed in their care.

HB 3859 amends the Human Resources Code to prohibit any governmental entity (state, municipality or other political subdivision of the state), any agency of the state, municipality or other governmental entity (department, bureau, board, commission, office, agency, council, court, public institution of higher education) or a single source continuum contractor in Texas from taking any adverse action against or refusing to contract with a “child welfare worker” who:

- refuses to provide, facilitate or refer a person for child welfare services that conflict with that provider’s religious beliefs;
- provides or intends to provide children under their care a religious education; or
- declines to provide, facilitate or refer a person for family planning services.

Child welfare services means social services provided to or on behalf of children, including among others, counseling children or parents, assisting abused or neglected children, performing home studies, serving as foster parents, foster family placements, etc.

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